

(d) The stocks of rice and paddy, which were surplus to the requirement of Punjab, were requisitioned in the interest of distribution in other parts of the country because the stockists were reluctant to sell them voluntarily to Government.

#### Agriculture

**1319. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on teaching methods for the benefit of teachers in agricultural and veterinary colleges was held at Mussoorie in May, 1958;

(b) names of the States organisations, and institutions who participated in this seminar; and

(c) nature of discussion held and decisions arrived at in the seminar?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c): Two statements containing (i) names of those who participated in the Seminar, and (ii) the topics discussed and the recommendations made are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 139].

#### Rice Prices

**1320. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of rice from September, 1957 to August, 1958 in Punjab;

(b) the comparative prices a year ago;

(c) whether Government have made any purchases in the open market or through procurement in Punjab;

(d) if so, the quantity bought both by open market transactions and under procurement; and

(e) the quantity so obtained by the Punjab Government?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The whole-

sale prices of common rice ranged between Rs. 16.00 and Rs. 24.50 nP. per maund.

(b) From Rs. 16.50 nP. to Rs. 24.62 nP. per maund.

(c) The Government have purchased rice both on voluntary offers from the open market as well as by requisition.

(d) On voluntary offer....about 82,900 tons; by requisition.....about 22,000 tons [upto 21-8-58].

(e) The quantities shown in the answer to part (d) above were purchased by the Government of Punjab on behalf of the Government of India.

#### Spices and Cashewnuts

**1321. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seminar of Scientific Workers on Spices and Cashewnut was held at Mercara in May, 1958; and

(b) if so, main problems discussed and decisions arrived at in this seminar?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes.

(b) Problems concerning the research and development of cashewnut, pepper, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, lemongrass, vanilla, cloves, nutmeg and cacao crops were discussed.

A copy of the statement containing the main recommendations of the Seminar is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 140].

#### Quarters for Employees of P.&T. Department

**1322. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the money spent on the construction of